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Revised Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Evaluation Committee of the Executive Board

Note to Evaluation Committee members

Focal points:

Technical questions:

Luis Jiménez-McInnis
Secretary of IFAD
Tel.: +39 06 5459 2254
e-mail: l.jimenez-mcinnis@ifad.org

Dispatch of documentation:

Deirdre Mc Grenra
Chief
Institutional Governance and
Member Relations
Tel.: +39 06 5459 2374
e-mail: gb@ifad.org

Evaluation Committee — 111th Session
Rome, 22 October 2020

For: **Review**

Note to Evaluation Committee members

The Evaluation Committee is hereby requested to formally recommend to the Board to approve the present revised Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Evaluation Committee of the Executive Board as discussed at the informal meeting of the Committee in January 2020 and at the 108th session of the Evaluation Committee. For ease of reference, additions to the current Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure (EB 2011/102/R.47/Rev.1) are underlined, while strikethrough indicates deleted text.

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Revised Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Evaluation Committee of the Executive Board

Recommendation for approval

The Executive Board, as recommended by the Evaluation Committee, is requested to review the draft Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Evaluation Committee, and adopt the revised Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure as contained in this document. For ease of reference, additions to the current Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure (EB 2011/102/R.47/Rev.1) are underlined, while strikethrough indicates deleted text.

I. Introductory note

1. The Evaluation Committee has undertaken a review of its Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedures in response to the recommendation of the peer review of the evaluation function at IFAD (hereafter "external peer review") completed in 2019. Specifically, the peer review recommended revising the role (Terms of Reference) of the Evaluation Committee to ensure full oversight of evaluation and results reporting functions IFAD-wide. In order to assure a uniform procedure for the different committees of the Executive Board, the general rules of procedures hereby proposed ~~have been~~ are the same as those proposed in 2011 and remain structured along the lines of those prevailing for the Audit Committee. Accordingly, the first two sections contain common provisions concerning the establishment and composition (section 1), the role and the conduct of business (section 2), and their relationship with the Rules and Procedures of the Executive Board (section 4). Most of the distinctive features relate to the responsibilities and are set forth in section 3.
2. In 2011, after an extensive review and due diligence process, the Committee reached consensus on the text of the draft Terms of Reference and Rules of the Procedure of the Evaluation Committee at its sixty-seventh meeting. The final version is hereby ~~was presented to and recommended for approval and approved~~ by the Executive Board at its 102nd session. ~~The current Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure are set out as attachments II and III respectively for comparison purpose.~~
3. The Evaluation Committee, as tasked by the Executive Board, has discussed and agreed that the revised Terms of Reference should be less prescriptive regarding the products for discussion at Committee sessions and focus rather on ensuring that the Committee contributes to improving the overall development effectiveness of the organization.

II. Proposed Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Evaluation Committee

1. Establishment and composition

- 1.1. The Executive Board, acting under rule 11 of the Rules of Procedures of the Executive Board, hereby establishes the Evaluation Committee.
- 1.2. The Evaluation Committee shall be composed of nine Executive Board members or alternate members appointed by the President pursuant to rule 11 of the Rules of Procedures of the Executive Board, as follows: four members from List A, two members from List B and three members from List C. The term of office of the Evaluation Committee shall be three years.
- 1.3. The Committee shall elect its chairperson from List B and C Committee members. In the absence of the chairperson during a scheduled meeting of the Committee, the Chair shall be temporarily assumed by another member from List B and C selected by the Committee.

- 1.4. The Secretary of the Fund serves as the Secretary of the Committee. The Director of the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD (IOE) serves in a technical support function.

2. Role and conduct of business

- 2.1. As a subsidiary body of the Executive Board, the role of the Evaluation Committee is to assist the Executive Board in discharging its responsibilities with regard to the evaluation functions in the Fund for which the Executive Board is responsible under the Agreement Establishing IFAD.
- 2.2. The quorum for any meeting of the Evaluation Committee shall be constituted when representatives of a majority of its members are present.
- 2.3. The Evaluation Committee shall not vote but shall set out the views expressed by its members in the reports it submits to the Executive Board. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the chairperson shall attempt to secure consensus in order to present in its reports to the Board, as far as possible, the unanimous views of the Evaluation Committee. In the absence of consensus, the minority views and opinions shall be reflected in the reports.
- 2.4. The Evaluation Committee shall hold regular meetings. The date of each meeting shall be determined by the Committee at each preceding meeting, unless otherwise decided by the Committee. Meetings can also be convened by the chairperson at any other time required. Notwithstanding rule 3¹ of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, the Evaluation Committee may undertake field visits organized by IFAD; Executive Board members, not members of the Evaluation Committee, may also take part in said field visits.
- 2.5. The official record of the discussion and recommendations adopted during Evaluation Committee meetings shall be the Evaluation Committee minutes. The minutes shall be approved by all participating members and may be submitted to the Executive Board. The chairperson will report to the Board on the deliberations of Evaluation Committee meetings.
- 2.6. The meetings of the Evaluation Committee shall be open to the Director of IOE and such staff members of the Fund as the President may, from time to time, designate, as well as other staff of IOE when its Director decides that they should attend as resource persons, except in relation to the matters foreseen in paragraph 3.1(j) below.
- 2.7. Executive Board members who are not members of the Evaluation Committee may also, as observers, attend meetings except when matters foreseen in paragraph 3.1(j) below are discussed.
- 2.8. In line with IFAD disclosure policy, the Evaluation Committee's minutes and its reports will be disclosed to the public through the IFAD website.

3. Responsibilities

- 3.1. The Executive Board may refer to the Evaluation Committee any question related to the evaluation functions in the Fund, for which the Executive Board is responsible under the Agreement Establishing IFAD. In addition, the Evaluation Committee should have the following permanent responsibilities:
 - (a) Ensure the full implementation of and compliance with the IFAD Evaluation Policy, whose overarching objective is the assessment of IFAD's results and impact in order to improve the Fund's operations and policies, by reporting and making recommendations to the Executive Board;

¹ **Rule 3:** Place of Sessions – All sessions of the Board shall be held at the seat of the Fund, except for sessions held in conjunction with a session of the Governing Council held elsewhere.

- (b) Contribute to IFAD's learning loop by reporting and making recommendations to the Executive Board on the evaluations it considers;
- (c) Contribute to IFAD's overall development effectiveness, in particular by reviewing independent and self-evaluation products and other reports as necessary;
- (d) Every year, review and report on IOE's annual work programme and draft budget;
- (e) Provide guidance to IOE on priorities for independent evaluations and to Management on self-evaluation activities to be undertaken for subsequent presentation at Evaluation Committee sessions;
- (f) Every year, discuss, review and report on the various evaluation products – both independent and self-evaluation products included in the product mix and included in the Committee's approved annual work programme. These include but are not limited to the Annual Report on Results and Impact of IFAD Operations (ARRI), President's Report on the Implementation Status of Evaluation Recommendations and Management Actions (PRISMA) and Report on IFAD's Development Effectiveness (RIDE) Every year, review and report on the Annual Report on Results and Impact of IFAD Operations and the Management's comments on this report;
- ~~(g) Every year, review and report on the President's Report on the Implementation Status of Evaluation Recommendations and Management Actions, together with the Office's comments on the same subject;~~
- (g) Discuss and report on the draft approach paper for corporate-level evaluations and thematic evaluations;
- ~~(h) Discuss and report on all the Office's corporate level evaluations and related Management's comments;~~
- (h) Select, discuss and report on corporate-level, country programme, thematic, project-level and other evaluation reports, together with IFAD Management's response to the evaluation reports;
- ~~(i) Discuss and report on the following reports, including the Office's related comments, prior to their consideration by the Executive Board:~~
 - ~~(i) The Report on IFAD's Development Effectiveness;~~
 - ~~(ii) Any possible future revision made by the Management to the Results and Impact Management System;~~
- (i) Review and report on those draft operational policies and strategy proposals stemming from evaluations conducted, including IOE's comments and Management's responses on the proposals, before they are considered by the Executive Board. This review will focus on the internalization of evaluation-based lessons and recommendations;
- (j) In accordance with the IFAD Evaluation Policy, assist the Executive Board in the selection, appointment, performance review and termination of the Director of IOE; and
- (k) Recommend the revision of the Evaluation Policy, when it is needed.

4. Final provision

- 4.1 The Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Evaluation Committee of the Executive Board contained in ~~document EB 2004/83/R.7/Rev.1~~ document EB 2011/102/R.47/Rev.1 are hereby voided and superseded by the Terms and Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Evaluation Committee of the Executive Board as set out in this document. In conformity with rule 11.3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board and with exception of rule 25 and 29 of the same, unless otherwise determined in the present Terms of Reference, the said Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board should apply, mutatis mutandis, to the proceedings of the Evaluation Committee.

Transmittal notes to the Executive Board

1. **Scope of the Terms of Reference (TORs)**

The Executive Board's power to set up subsidiary bodies is regulated in rule 11 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board. According to rule 11.3 the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board apply to these subsidiary bodies unless it is decided otherwise. Accordingly, the addressee of the TORs is therefore the Evaluation Committee. The TORs cannot regulate the conduct of other bodies of the Fund. This explains why the draft does not contain directives to other bodies of the Fund (i.e. Governing Council and President).

2. **Composition**

Paragraph 1.2 of the draft TORs codifies the current practice as reflected in the Rules of Procedure of the Evaluation Committee contained in document EB 2004/83/R.7/Rev.1, which provides that the Evaluation Committee shall be composed of nine Executive Board members or alternate members appointed by the President in pursuant to rule 11 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board in accordance with the following: four members from List A, two members from List B and three members from List C.

3. **Term of office**

The term of office of the Evaluation Committee members shall be three years. The term of office should be aligned with the one of the Executive Board, in order to assure that all members of the Committee are also members of the Executive Board, as required by rule 11 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board.

4. **Selection criteria**

The second sentence of rule 11.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board provides that the President shall appoint the members of subsidiary bodies, with the approval of the Executive Board. In appointing the members of the Evaluation Committee to be approved by the Executive Board, the President may refer to the Principles of Conduct for Representatives on the Executive Board of IFAD, which apply, mutatis mutandis, to committees and other subsidiary bodies of the Executive Board.² ~~not prescribe any criteria or conditions, because neither the Agreement Establishing IFAD nor the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board prescribe anything with regard to any code of conduct or professional qualification for membership in any of the governing bodies. Accordingly, the general principle enshrined in the 1975 Vienna Convention on the Representation of States in their Relations with International Organizations of a Universal Character, i.e. the freedom of the sending State in the composition of its delegations to the organs of the organization, applies.~~

5. **Chairperson**

As prescribed by rule 14.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, paragraph 1.3 of the draft TORs envisages that the Committee shall elect its own chairperson. The chosen wording allows continuation of the practice that the Committee shall elect its chairperson from List B and C Committee members if it is so wished. If that practice is continued, in the absence of the chairperson during a scheduled meeting of the Committee the Chair will be temporarily assumed by another member selected by the Committee.

6. **Nature of the Evaluation Committee**

Paragraph 2.1 reflects the fact that by virtue of rule 11 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, the Evaluation Committee is a functional body, which is also referred to as a preparatory body. That means that it acts exclusively in the preparation of decisions in a given field by the Executive Board and does not itself

² Principles of conduct for representatives of the Executive Board of IFAD ([EB 2016/119/R.44](#)).

exercise decisional authority. For that reason, rule 11.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board provides that the subcommittees and other subsidiary bodies of the Executive Board "shall not vote but shall submit reports setting out the different views expressed in the body." For the sake of clarity this is restated in paragraph 2.3 of the draft TORs.

The preparatory nature of the Evaluation Committee also has implications for the scheduling of its sessions. It is therefore expected to meet regularly, but is left free to time those meetings (paragraph 2.4). It has been the practice of the Evaluation Committee to meet before each regular session of the Executive Board. There is no compelling reason to make that mandatory.

7. Default position regarding the applicable rules of procedure

In conformity with rule 11.3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, unless otherwise determined in the TORs, the said Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the proceedings of the Evaluation Committee.

8. Meetings

Although paragraph 2.4 is articulated in a different way than in the current text, it is not the intention for the Committee to change its practice to set the dates of its meetings in the last session each year.

9. Attendance at Evaluation Committee meetings

As a consequence of the default position regarding the applicable rules of procedure, it follows from rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board that the sessions of the Evaluation Committee shall be open to such staff members of the Fund as the President may, from time to time, designate for that purpose, as well as other staff of the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD (IOE) designated by its Director to attend as resource persons, except for meetings concerning the selection, appointment, performance review and termination of the Director of IOE.

10. Responsibilities

Based on rule 11.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, it is the Executive Board that defines the scope of the responsibilities of the Evaluation Committee. Being a subsidiary body of the Executive Board, it can only be tasked with matters that are within the competence of the Executive Board. With respect to evaluation matters the Board is *inter alia* empowered to:

- (a) Oversee IFAD's independent evaluation and assess the overall quality and impact of IFAD programmes and projects as documented in evaluation reports;
- (b) Approve policies aimed at enhancing the independence and effectiveness of the evaluation function;
- (c) Receive directly from IOE all evaluation reports, including the Annual Report on Results and Impact of IFAD Operations;
- (d) Endorse the appointment and removal of the IOE Director; and
- (e) Approve the IOE's annual work programme and recommend to the Governing Council the approval of IOE's budget.

Paragraph 3.1 of the draft TORs reflects the above and articulates the framework of reference for the Evaluation Committee, by stating that its tasks relate to evaluation function in the Fund for which the Executive Board is responsible under the Agreement Establishing IFAD.

The subsequent subparagraphs of paragraph 3 detail this general role of the Evaluation Committee by listing its specific and permanent tasks. Those tasks correspond to the responsibilities attributed to the Committee in the revised IFAD Evaluation Policy.